

Executive Summary: Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

The City of Long Beach Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan includes resources and information to assist City residents, public and private sector organizations, and others interested in participating in planning for natural hazards. The mitigation plan provides a list of activities that may assist City of Long Beach in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities for earthquakes, flooding, earth movement, windstorms, and tsunamis.

How is the Plan Organized?

The Mitigation Plan contains a Mitigation Actions Matrix, background on the purpose and methodology used to develop the mitigation plan, a profile of City of Long Beach, sections on five natural hazards that occur within the City, and a number of appendices. All of the sections are described in detail in Section 1, Introduction.

Who Participated in Developing the Plan?

The City of Long Beach Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is the result of a collaborative planning effort between City of Long Beach, citizens, public agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and regional and state organizations. Public participation played a key role in development of goals and action items. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders across the City, and public outreach activities were conducted to include City of Long Beach residents in plan development. The Natural Hazards Mitigation Advisory Committee guided the process of developing the plan.

The Natural Hazards Mitigation Advisory Committee was comprised of the following representatives:

City of Long Beach	Dave Ellis, Fire Chief, Committee Co-Chair
	Fady Mattar, Director of Planning & Building, Committee Co-Chair
	Rich Brandt, Hazard Mitigation Coordinator, Fire Department, Committee Facilitator
	Casey Chel, Disaster Management
	Stephen Scott, City Manager's Office
	Diana Ambriz, Financial Management
	Tina Dickinson, Technology Services – GIS
	Janet Mullen, Technology Services - GIS

	Larry Rich, Planning & Building
	Dale Wiersma, Planning & Building
	Miguel Madrigal, Planning & Building
	Craig Chalfant, Planning & Building
	Johnny Vallejo, Community Development
	Laurie Browning, Parks, Recreation & Marine
	John Benedetti, Police Department
	Torben Beith, Police Department
	Linden Nishinaga, Public Works
	Octavius Covington, Harbor Department – Port of Long Beach Security
	Bob Berg, Water Department
	Mike Alio, Human Resources
	Margaret Shobert, Human Resources
	Hanan Obeidi, Health & Human Services
American Red Cross Response Services	Peggy Brutsche
	Bill Clausen
Long Beach Memorial Hospital	Ginger Alhadeff
Pacific Hospital of Long Beach	Luis Gonzalez
Long Beach Unified School District	Cathy Coy
Department of Veterans Affairs	Theodore Gegoux
Emergency Planning Consultants	Carolyn J. Harshman, President

What is the Plan Mission?

The mission of the City of Long Beach Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is to establish and promote a comprehensive mitigation policy and program to protect citizens, employees, businesses and industries lives, property and facilities, the infrastructure and the environment from natural hazards.

What are the Plan Goals?

The plan goals describe the overall direction that City of Long Beach agencies, organizations, and citizens can take to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. The goals are stepping-stones between the broad direction of the mission statement and the specific recommendations outlined in the action items.

Protect Life and Property

Identify natural hazards that threaten life and property in the City of Long Beach.

Implement programs and projects that assist in protecting lives by making infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to losses from natural hazards.

Protect life and property by adopting state-of-the-art standards, codes and construction procedures.

Reduce losses and repetitive damages for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance coverage for catastrophic hazards.

Improve hazard assessment information to make recommendations for discouraging new development in high hazard areas and encouraging preventative measures for existing development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

Increase Public Awareness

Increase public awareness of existing threats and the means to reduce these threats by conducting educational and outreach programs to all the various community groups in the City of Long Beach.

Provide information on tools; partnership opportunities, and funding resources to assist in implementing mitigation activities.

Strengthen Partnerships

Strengthen communication and coordinate participation among and within public agencies, residents, non-profit organizations, business, and industry to gain a vested interest in implementation of mitigation measures.

Encourage and support leadership within public and private sector, non-profit agencies and community based organizations to promote and implement local hazard mitigation activities.

Environmental & Historical Preservation

Balance land use planning with natural hazard mitigation to protect life, property and the environment.

City Emergency Services

Establish policy to ensure the importance of mitigation programs and projects for critical facilities, services, and infrastructure.

Continue providing emergency services with training and equipment to address all identified hazards.

Continue developing and strengthening inter-jurisdictional coordination and cooperation in the area of emergency services.

How are the Action Items Organized?

The action items are a listing of activities in which City agencies and citizens can be engaged to reduce risk. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation.

The action items are organized within the following Matrix, which lists all of the multi-hazard and hazard-specific action items included in the mitigation plan. Data collection and research and the public participation process resulted in the development of these action items (see Appendix B: Public Participation). The Matrix includes the following information for each action item:

Coordinating Organization. The coordinating organization is the public agency with regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Coordinating organizations may include local, county, or regional agencies that are capable of or responsible for implementing activities and programs.

Timeline. Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for implementation.

Plan Goals Addressed. The plan goals addressed by each action item are included as a way to monitor and evaluate how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals once implementation begins. The plan goals are organized into the following five areas:

Protect Life and Property
Increase Public Awareness
Strengthen Partnerships
Environmental & Historical Preservation
City Emergency Services

How Will the Plan be Implemented, Monitored, and Evaluated?

The Plan Maintenance Section (Section 2) of the Plan details the formal process that will ensure that the City of Long Beach Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the Plan annually and producing a plan revision every five years. This section describes how the City will integrate public participation throughout the plan maintenance process. Finally, this section includes an explanation of how the City of Long Beach government intends to incorporate the mitigation strategies outlined in this Plan into existing planning mechanisms such as the City's General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and Building & Safety Codes.

Plan Adoption

Adoption of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan by the local jurisdiction's governing body is one of the prime requirements for approval of the plan. Once the plan is completed, the City Council will be responsible for adopting the City of Long Beach Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The City Council has the responsibility and authority to promote sound public policy regarding natural hazards. The City Manager (or designee) will have the authority to periodically need to re-adopt the plan as it is revised to meet changes in the natural hazard risks and exposures in the community. The approved Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be significant in the future growth and development of the community.

Coordinating Body

The City Manager will appoint a City Manager's Executive Committee consisting of department managers. The Executive Committee will be responsible for providing leadership and guidance to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Advisory Committee (Mitigation Committee). The Mitigation Committee will be responsible for implementation of Plan action items and coordinating the formal review process.

Convener

Upon approval of the Plan by the City Council, the City Manager (or designee) will convene a joint meeting of the City Manager's Executive Committee and the Mitigation Committee. The purpose of the joint meeting will be to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the two Committees, as well as to establish an annual schedule and assign tasks for implementing the Plan. The Mitigation Committee will serve as a working committee, while the Executive Committee will be ultimately responsible for implementation and evaluation of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Implementation through Existing Programs

City of Long Beach addresses statewide planning goals and legislative requirements through the City's General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and City Building & Safety Codes. The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan provides a series of recommendations that are closely related to the goals and objectives of these existing planning programs. The City of Long Beach will have the opportunity to implement recommended mitigation action items through existing programs and procedures.

Economic Analysis of Mitigation Projects

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's approaches to identify costs and benefits associated with natural hazard mitigation strategies or projects fall into two general categories: benefit/cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis. Conducting benefit/cost analysis for a mitigation activity can assist communities in determining whether a project is worth undertaking now, in order to avoid disaster-related damages later. Cost-effectiveness analysis evaluates how best to spend a given amount of money to achieve a specific goal. Determining the economic feasibility of mitigating natural hazards can provide decision makers with an understanding of the potential benefits and costs of an activity, as well as a basis upon which to compare alternative projects.

Formal Review Process

The City of Long Beach Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be evaluated on an annual basis to determine the effectiveness of programs, and to reflect changes in land development or programs that may affect mitigation priorities. The evaluation process includes a firm schedule and timeline, and identifies the local agencies and organizations participating in plan evaluation. The City Manager (or designee) will be responsible for contacting the Executive Committee members and organizing the meeting for the annual review of the Plan. The Executive Committee will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation action items identified in the Plan.

Continued Public Involvement

The City of Long Beach is dedicated to involving the public directly in the continual review and updates of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Copies of the plan will be catalogued and made available at the City Libraries, the City Clerk's Office located in City Hall and on the City website. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized in City newsletters. The Plan also includes the address and the phone number of the City's Hazard Mitigation Coordinator who is responsible for keeping track of public comments on the Plan. In addition, copies of the Plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the City website. This site will also contain an email address and phone number.